

MEDIA RELEASE

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Education leader fights global learning disparity with local heroes

Global education services provider, Navitas Limited, has today announced two new philanthropic partnerships with not-for-profits Plan International and Chiezda Child Care Centre, to increase and improve educational standards, access, and equality for young people around the world.

The two new organisations will join existing partners Classroom of Hope, Room to Read, the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN), and Hagar. Recipients are funded under the Navitas Education Trust (NET); a philanthropic vehicle for supporting charitable bodies and activities that has operated since 2013.

Working with Plan International for the first time, the initiative will allow for infrastructure, training, and resources to support children with disabilities to learn alongside their able-bodied peers across 10 schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Bangladesh has one of the largest primary education systems in the world but children with disabilities are often ostracised to the point of discontinuing their studies.

Plan International Australia Partnerships Manager, Vanessa Calvert, says this partnership will help prevent children from falling through the cracks.

"We will use this grant to effectively set up 'catchment zones' to identify disabled children at risk, and give them the support and encouragement they need to stay in - and excel at - school," she said.

The agreement with Chiedza Child Care Centre will provide access to education for around 400 children and youth in urban and rural communities of Zimbabwe who have dropped out of school prematurely. The project will benefit boys and girls who are orphaned, poor, and vulnerable – and who either failed to start school by the age of 9, or dropped out of school early.

This project is a registered Rotary Australia World Community Service project. Coffs Harbour Rotary Daybreak Club President, Bev Stalling, who supports the Centre, says the endowment will have broader community advantages as well.

"This opportunity will not only directly benefit the young people enrolled in the program, but will also provide support and flow-on benefits for their families and the schools they attend," she said.

Navitas' existing NET partners also continue to do outstanding work. This year Room to Read will construct a new library building at a needy school in Sri Lanka and support community engagement; Classroom of Hope will continue to create and support child friendly environments in Cambodian primary schools; Hagar will continue to restore the lives of women and children who have survived severe human rights abuse, and two new Navitas-named scholarships will be awarded by ABCN to high performing but

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disadvantaged Year 10 students through their final years of high school and first year of tertiary education in Australia.

Every year Navitas contributes a set amount to the NET and a proportion is used to fund education based initiatives developed in partnership with charities while the remainder is invested to generate interest for future use.

Navitas CEO Rod Jones says he is proud of the achievements of the Trust so far and feels privileged to continue supporting this impactful work.

"Our partners are driven by passion and purpose. They have delivered positively life-changing experiences to children undergoing significant disadvantage, and we're proud to be able to continue supporting this important and essential work," he said.

Education-oriented non-profits are encouraged to apply to become a NET partner through the Navitas [website](#). Applications open annually in December and submissions are due by the following February.

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About Navitas

Navitas is a leading global education provider that offers an extensive range of educational services through three major Divisions to students and professionals including university programs, creative media education, professional education, English language training and settlement services. Navitas is a S&P/ASX100 company. Further details about Navitas are available at www.navitas.com